## REMARKS

Claims 31-41 are pending in the application. Claims 31-41 have been deleted herein. New claims 42-45 have been added herein. Applicants respectfully traverse each ground of rejection and requests reconsideration and further examination of the application under 37 CFR § 1.111. Applicants respond to each ground of rejection and objection as follows.

As rejected claims 31-39 have been deleted, their rejection in the prior Office Action is now considered moot. Furthermore, claims 40 and 41 were withdrawn from consideration and have also been deleted herein.

New claims 42-45 have been presented which Applicants believe better define the novel and nonobvious aspects of the present invention.

**A. Claims 40 and 41 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.**

It is respectfully submitted that claims 40 and 41 have been cancelled herein, therefore their withdrawal from consideration is now considered moot.

**B. Claims 31-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chudgar et al. in view of Mezzalira.**

It is respectfully submitted that claims 31-39 have been cancelled herein, therefore their rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is now considered moot. In an effort to more clearly define the present invention in view of the prior art, Applicants have added new claims 42-45 by amendment herein. Applicants also offer the following comments

constructions disclosed in the cited references.

As a threshold matter, Applicants would like to make clear the distinction (as embodied in claims 42-45) that the claimed invention is the reinforcement material. Therefore, the material to be reinforced is a hose or similar extended object (not claimed in the present claims), while the material to be stiffened is the textile reinforcement layer (presently claimed in claims 42-45).

Unlike the constructions shown in the cited prior art, the stiffening of the present textile reinforcement layer serves as a stiffening for the reinforcement layer itself rather than as a stiffening for a hose, tube or any other similar extended objects (hereinafter referred to simply as "hose") including the reinforcement layer. As disclosed in the present specification, the textile reinforcement layer is applied to a hose in the form of an initially flat (two-dimensional) textile product (see page 3, lines 12-16). Due to the presence of the stiffening, the textile reinforcement layer is dimensionally stable in at least the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis thereof (which corresponds to the longitudinal axis of the hose to be produced). This ensures a wrinkle-free application of the textile reinforcement layer during the manufacturing process of the hose (see, for example, page 2, lines 1-2 and page 3, lines 9-16 of the specification). Additional stiffening of the reinforcement layer in its longitudinal direction is possible and may be preferable in certain instances, but is not a necessary feature of the present invention (see, for example, page 5, last paragraph).

On the other hand, it is not necessarily the case that the stiffening of the reinforcement layer also shows a stiffening effect in the final hose. For example, in the

material used as the stiffening material. The matrix material is the material, the

inner and outer layer, as well as any optional intermediate layer of the final hose (see page 1, last two paragraphs). It is therefore evident that the stiffening in the reinforcement layer even in this preferred embodiment does not result in a stiffening of the final hose. Because the stiffening of the textile reinforcement layer is the same material as used for the inner, outer and optional intermediate matrix of the hose, the resulting hose has a structure wherein the material providing stiffening to the textile reinforcement layer cannot provide any stiffening effect to the hose, the other layers of which are made out of the same material.

In light of the above discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention is both novel and nonobvious in view of the cited prior art. Both the Chudgar and Mezzalira references describe hoses which include a reinforcement layer. The Office Action points out that the Chudgar reinforcement layer may comprise a thin thermoplastic film which will stiffen when exposed to cold and soften when exposed to heat. The Mezzalira reference includes a knitted reinforcement layer. While both of these layers may act in certain circumstances to stiffen the final hose, as alleged by the Office Action, neither reference discloses a reinforcement layer which includes a stiffening that functions to stiffen the reinforcement layer itself. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Applicants' claims 42-45 are allowable in view of the references of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present

undersigned attorney.

Attached hereto is one page which presents a marked up version of the changes made to this application by the current amendment. This attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

A check in the amount of $410.00 is enclosed for a three-month extension of time, and a check in the amount of $750 is enclosed for the Request for Continued Examination. No additional fees are believed to be necessary, however, should any fees be deemed required, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 31-41 were cancelled.

Claims 42-45 were added as follows:

--42. An extended textile reinforcement layer for hoses, tubes and similar extended objects, that comprise at least one inner layer, said textile reinforcement layer and an outer layer that is bonded to the textile reinforcement layer and the inner layer, characterized in that said textile reinforcement layer comprises a stiffening selected from the group of individual threads, individual yarns and a textile product, said stiffening forming a textile bond with the reinforcement layer, said stiffening at normal ambient temperatures will act as a stiffener of the reinforcement layer in a direction different from the longitudinal axis of the body to be reinforced, particularly in a substantially perpendicular direction to the longitudinal axis of the body to be reinforced, and wherein said stiffening has a first melting point which is lower than a second melting point of the reinforcement layer.

43. The extended textile reinforcement layer of claim 42, wherein said stiffening consists of individual threads or yarns.

44. The extended textile reinforcement layer of claim 42, wherein said stiffening consists of a textile product.

45. The extended textile reinforcement layer of claim 44, wherein said textile product is selected from the group consisting of a fabric, knitted fabric, knit, double knit and a fleece.--